A BRIEF REMARKS BY THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF PRISONS
MR. JOHN C. MINJA ON THE ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON
BUILDING SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY INTO URBAN AND
RURAL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE AT HYATT REGENCY
HOTEL, DAR ES SALAAM 2nd SEPTEMBER, 2013

- Honourable Ambassador Dianna Melrose British High
  Commissioner to Tanzania,
- Director, Road Safety Fund,
- FIA - Foundation Representatives,
- Invited guests,
- Journalists,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,
- All protocol observed.

Honourable Ambassador, when I received the invitation from the
organizers to participate in this roundtable meeting under the
auspices of the Road Safety Fund, my first impression was towards
the national and local policies, targets, plans and strategies on
the implementation of the five pillars of the UN Decade of Action
for Road Safety which are :-

- Road safety management
- Safer roads and Mobility
- Safer Vehicles
- Safer road users
- Post - Crash response and care
Honourable Ambassador, the world now is striving to achieve that and if we recall the decision that emanated from the Vatican meeting of Ministers, senior UN officials and Policy makers around the world which was followed by the launch of the UN Decade of Action Programs in Rome it was provided inter alia that:-

“Governments in all countries must combat the world’s fastest growing public health emergency by committing to a ten year action plan which would save five million lives and prevent fifty million serious injuries”.

In Tanzania, during the Conference on Roads Safe Africa held in Dar es Salaam July, 2009, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete committed his full support to the UN Decade of Action by becoming the first head of state to back up the proposal which aims at reducing by 50% in death rate on road accidents over the next ten years. On that occasion, H.E. the President also signed the UN Decade of Action proposal. As a commitment towards that a strong delegation from Tanzania was sent to Moscow in 2009 to attend the 1st Ministerial Conference on Road Safety.

In 2010 Hon. Ambassador Greig Craft the President of the Asia Injury Prevention (AIP) Foundation and the Global Helmet Vaccine Initiative of Vietnam met H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete the President of the United Republic of Tanzania where he explained the success achieved by the Asia Injury Prevention Foundation in
the manufacturing of tropical motorcycle riders helmets which has contributed significantly to the Vietnam’s road safety.

H.E. the President Kikwete requested technical assistance from the Asia Injury Prevention (AIP) Foundation to establish a factory in Tanzania. Following that, a benchmarking visit to Hanoi Vietnam was conducted from 16 - 22 November, 2012 by the Tanzania Prisons Department led by Commissioner General of Prisons to explore more on Helmet production at the Asia Injury Prevention (AIP) Foundation Protec Helmet Factory.

We acknowledge our colleagues from AIP Foundation for their advice and technical assistance to this moment.

After that visit we carried out an observational survey over behavioral of motorcycle riders and passengers in some regions including Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga. The Data collected revealed that there is a need to have a helmet factory in Tanzania to reduce the fatality and injury rate, not only in the country but also in the Southern Sahara Region.

As result construction of Helmet Assembly plant at Ukonga Central Prison is going on and currently we have completed a business plan which will be shared for the sake of soliciting funds.

**Honourable Ambassador**, last but not least by its importance let me express my sincere appreciation to all who made this roundtable meeting happen, I am real very much proud and
humbled to say that the Tanzania Prisons Department is ready to support the implementation of one pillar, which is “safer road users” by establishing a motorcyclists helmet factory in Dar es Salaam. The factory is expected to avail affordable and qualitable tropical helmets to motorcyclists.

The issue of Road safety in Tanzania involves multisector players, its targets and plans requires a comprehensive “Safe system” approach based on a sound management.

The implementation requires political commitment, funding and a clearly assigned responsibilities and accountability for each player.

Thank you for your attention.